



Biography

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
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JAMES W. PLUMMER

Mr. James W. Plummer became Under Secretary of the Air Force on Dec. 20, 1973. Prior to his appointment as Under Secretary by the President, he was Corporate Vice President and General Manager of the Space Systems Division of Lockheed Missiles & Space Company (LMSC). He had been involved in the development and manufacture of satellite systems for the Armed Forces and NASA since 1955.

Mr. Plummer was born in Idaho Springs, Colo., on Jan. 29, 1920. He received a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1942, and a master's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Maryland, in 1953. During World War II, he was commissioned in the Navy and served with aircraft operating squadrons on the USS Enterprise, pioneering in the development of radar tactics from carrier-based aircraft.



From 1947 to 1955, Mr. Plummer was with the U.S. Naval Test Center at Patuxent River, Md. He was responsible for bench and flight evaluation of airborne communications and navigation equipment and was concerned with problems of systems analysis, radio wave propagation, and circuitry of UHF communications equipment.

Mr. Plummer began his association with LMSC in 1955 in connection with the Air Force Reentry Test Rocket and later as Manager of the Satellite Payload Department with responsibility for technical direction and planning for the payload subsystems of the original Air Force satellite program. In 1958 he became Manager of Satellite Recovery Systems Development. In 1959 Mr. Plummer assumed responsibility as Program Manager of the Discoverer Program. In 1961 as Deputy Director of Special Programs, Satellite Systems, he was responsible for technical direction and management of a group of Air Force and NASA programs.

In the Space Systems Division of LMSC, he had served successively as Director of Military Programs; Assistant General Manager, Special Programs; and Vice President and Assistant General Manager, Space Systems Division. In 1968 he became Vice President and Assistant General Manager, Research and Development Division. Mr. Plummer was appointed as Vice President and General Manager of Space Systems Division in 1969.

He is a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and of the American Astronautical Society. He has served on the U.S. Naval Weapons Center Advisory Board, China Lake (1971-1972); the Defense Science Board "Special Defensive Systems" Summer Task Force (1972); and was a member of the Board of Directors, C M L Satellite Corporation.

He was awarded the U.S. Air Force Meritorious Achievement Award for his contributions to the Discoverer Space Program, and received the Silver Knight of Management Award from the LMSC Management Association in 1967.

Mr. Plummer is married to the former Mary Anderson. They have two sons, Robert and John, and two daughters, Janet and Julia.